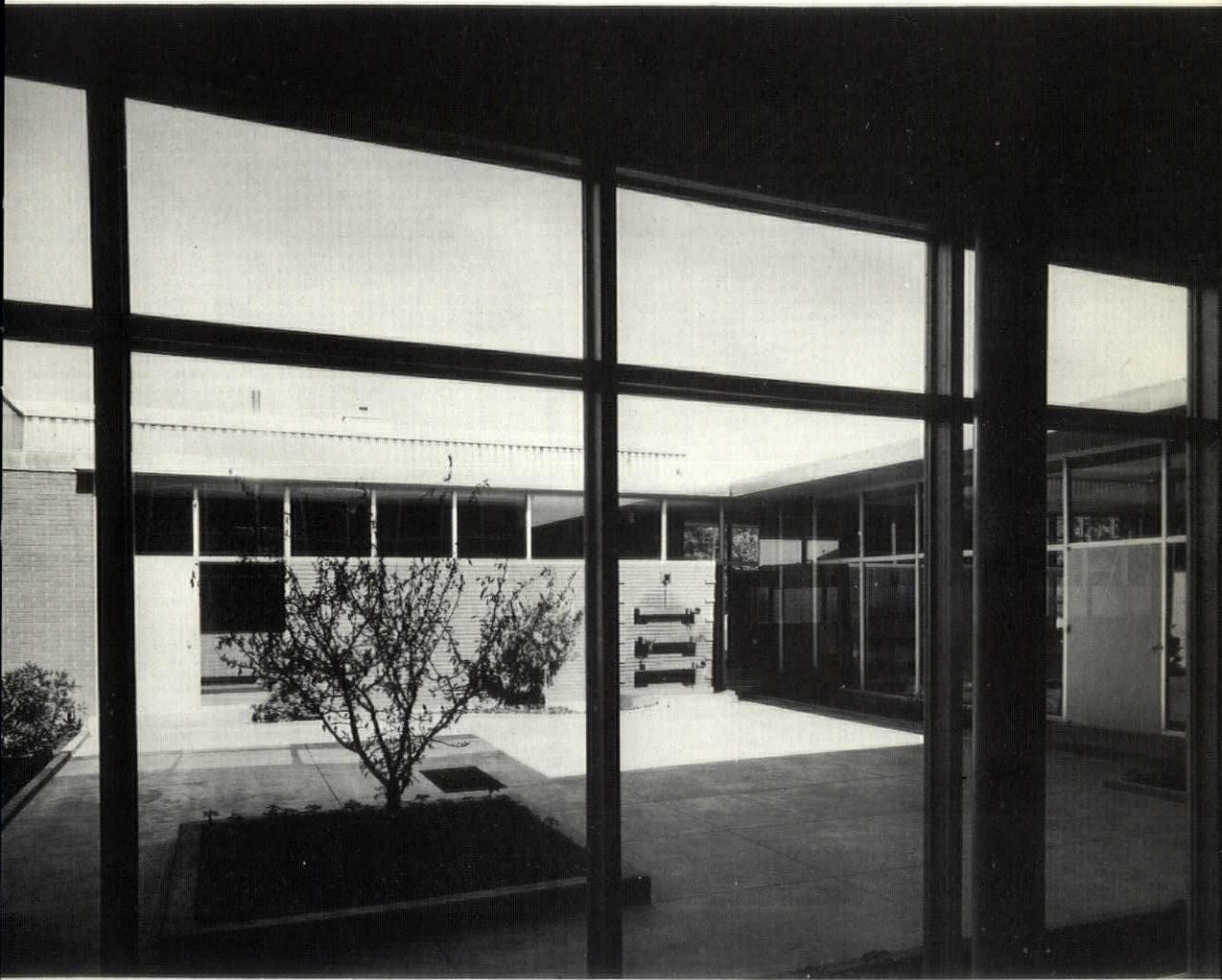


New Hampshire
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New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

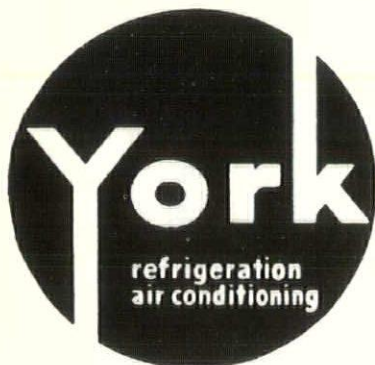


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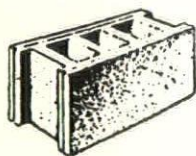


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New Hampshire ARCHITECT

VOL. 7

NOVEMBER, 1955

NO. 4

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OUR COVER

Marion Electrical Instrument Company's Court,
Showing Fountain.

All Photos by—
Eric M. Sanford, Manchester

The President's Message

Personal advertising is not practiced by members of the American Institute of Architects but publicizing the activities of the profession as a whole is one of the newer activities of the Institute. Public relations counsel has been retained by the National organization and by some of the larger state chapters.



The New Hampshire Architect has become one of this Chapter's most effective means of presenting the activities and work of New Hampshire practitioners to the people of our state.



In addition, largely through the work of the New England Regional Council of the A. I. A., there has just been concluded at Harvard University a seminar on secondary schools. All New Hampshire architects were urged to attend and school superintendents, school boards and building committees were invited to participate. By means of exhibits and speakers the aims and activities of architects, among other things, were effectively presented.



Elsewhere in this issue is an announcement of the National School Exhibit at the Atlantic City Conference of the American Association of School Administrators. I hope that New Hampshire Architects will avail themselves of this opportunity to present their work and their names to the many school people who will attend the Conference.



The December issue of our magazine will be related to the activities discussed above. It is the second school building issue to be prepared. Copies of the first issue are no longer available attesting to the general interest of the public in our work in this field. It is expected that at some time in the future a third school issue will be prepared. Participation in the monthly publication is open to any member of the Chapter, and all are urged to avail themselves of the opportunity of thus presenting examples of their work to the many laymen who receive our magazine.



New England Regional Council Seminar on Secondary Schools Held at Harvard

One small statistic caught the nation napping.

The birth rate fell in 1948-50, and the citizens thought they had the school situation all sized up. Building needs would not be too great by 1957-58. The high school of the future was almost in the planning stage.

But even a statistician can be wrong. In 1952, the birth rate took an up-trend and hit a peak 3,889,000. Now every state in the nation is faced with a new statistic from the U. S. Office of Education. It's the expectation that ten years hence—1965—our public school enrollment will be 11,890,000 or 60 per cent more than last year's.

New England has "faced the fact" with a seminar on secondary school needs at Harvard, November 11th and 12th, sponsored by the New England Regional Council, American Institute of Architects, in cooperation with the New England School Development Council, the Harvard Center for Field Studies in Education, and the Boston Society of Architects.

This top level group, headed by Professor Walter F. Bogner of the Harvard School of Architecture and Design, brought a guest speaker from England, Anthony Part of the British Ministry of Education, Chief of School Building Construction for the United Kingdom.

Mr. Part is no "distant British cousin." He knows America and its school scene well through a study he made in this country in the years 1950-51. During his stay he was based in New England.

About 300 architects and educators from the six New England states attended the seminar.

Chairman Bogner was assisted by Norman Fletcher, Cambridge architect, and Regional Director of the A. I. A. Austin W. Mather.

"People are complaining," said Mr. Bogner, "that just finished building a lot of elecentary schools. Meantime, they claim money is scarce; taxes too high, and

suddenly we're crying for more secondary schools. The need is critical, but it's not just for 'more', but for 'what kind,' too."

The kind of schools we build affects the kind of education we give. How big should a classroom be? Does the school use new techniques of teaching, like television? Should we build a campus type school of several low units, or a compact up-and-down structure? Should we go even further and adopt the regional concept where a cluster of schools serves several communities? Should the school auditorium serve as a "town hall" where adults can meet at night? Should we build a permanent monument in brick and stone? Or a flexible, expandable unit where rooms can be enlarged and additions made without tearing down?

Do our schools cost too much? And how can we get the most for our money?

Finding the answers is the biggest "catch-up" operation in school history.

The slow rate of change in school thinking is dramatically illustrated in the School Facilities Survey made in 1952 by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In the New England states the survey found more than 66 per cent of the public schools in Vermont were over 50 years old; Maine was second with 59 per cent at the half-century mark; New Hampshire, 52 per cent; Rhode Island, 34 per cent; Massachusetts close to 30 per cent; and Connecticut 25 per cent.

These figures were brought up to date and some startling new ones added at the Harvard meeting. Both Dr. Nelson Viles and Dr. Ray Hamon of the U. S. Office of Education presented facts on a new federal survey that will go to press shortly.

Committee members for the New England Regional Seminars from New Hampshire under the direction of Chairman Bogner of Harvard, included Stewart Lyford and Eugene Magenau of Concord, Ted Hunter of Hanover and Norman Randlett of Laconia.

F.H.A. Drawing Up Rules on Plot Drainage and Sod

The Federal Housing Administration is setting up minimum requirements for builders who landscaped new homes financed with F. H. A.-insured mortgages. At present F. H. A. has certain general rules. But complaints about poor quality sod and lack of attention to drainage prompted the formation of an industry committee to work out firmer basic recommendations to be adopted as requirements for loan approval.

Problems of drainage, lawns, landscaping, driveways, sidewalks and steps are included.

F. H. A. Commissioner Norman P. Mason explained that "when allowance is made in insured mortgages for lawn and planting it is important that F. H. A. establish standards by which to measure the quality of materials and workmanship."

An F. H. A. official said that any requirements adopted will be aimed at eliminating "misunderstandings" arising from the rather vague, general standards now prevailing.

Any new regulations are not expected to upset builders' plans. They would offer greater protection to buyers who finance their home purchases with F. H. A.-insured mortgages and whose sales contracts include landscaping.

Present requirements "must be interpreted by individual builders," an official

explained, leaving to their discretion the type of materials and the quality of workmanship.

Further, F. H. A. hopes to eliminate leaky basements by requiring all builders of F. H. A.-insured homes to submit for prior approval the elevation of the first floor in relation to the street level. This move is now required only in cases where builders think some difficulty may develop.

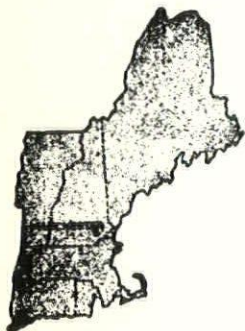
Difficulties have arisen when the ordinary non-submitted case develops a wet basement, or poor drainage in general, because grading was not properly planned and carried out.

Problems arising from driveways, walks and steps have arisen because they were too wide, too narrow, or too steep, or built with too much curvature.

F. H. A. made it clear it won't lay down hard and fast requirements regarding the use of a particular sod or shrub but will permit local supply conditions to prevail. However, it was stressed that F. H. A. will insist on use of good quality materials.

Building industry officials say more attention is given now than in previous years to grading for the best drainage and to the laying of good sod lawns.

Landscaping, one official said, is a "fairly important factor in selling a house." And, in today's highly competitive home building market, any good selling point is vital, he added.



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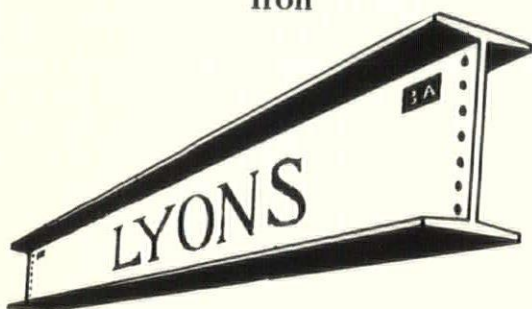
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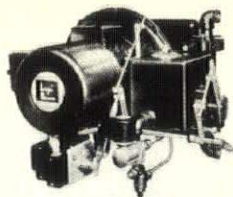


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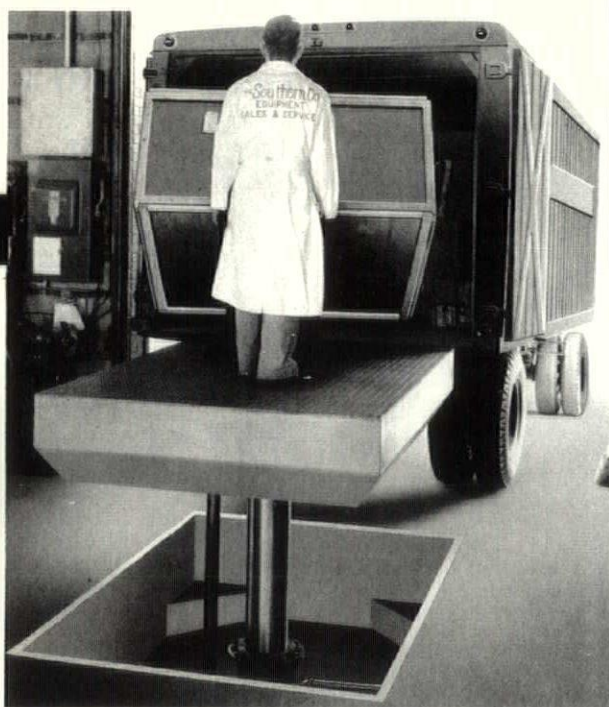


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National Competition For the Design of Auditorium and Civic Center

WASHINGTON—A national competition for the design of the District of Columbia's auditorium and civic center is proposed by The American Institute of Architects. George Bain Cummings of Binghamton, N. Y., president of the national architectural professional society, has written members of the District Auditorium Commission to offer the Institute's cooperation in setting up such a competition.

Cummings pointed out that in authorizing appointment of a commission to study and make recommendations for the proposed auditorium, Congress has recognized the unusual importance of a national cultural center in the capital city—not only to Washington residents but to all citizens of the United States.

Therefore, the Institute suggests, it would be particularly appropriate to utilize the democratic method of open competition in selecting the architects and artists who will collaborate on the designs and artistic decoration for the building.

The AIA president noted that his organization frequently is called upon by Federal agencies and others to advise on the selection of an architect and is prepared

at all times to comply with such requests. He said that as a public service, the Institute would be willing to set up a special architectural advisory committee to assist the District Auditorium Commission in attaining its objective of providing the finest cultural center in the country for the nation's capital.

With a membership of nearly 11,000 which represents the great majority of practicing architects throughout the United States, The American Institute of Architects is the recognized spokesman for the profession. Its national headquarters are in the historic Octagon House in Washington.

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"The Greeks were not great architects but merely great builders."

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"We must not be imitative cowards, importing style from abroad."

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All by Frank Lloyd Wright

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1955

<i>Architect</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Carl E. Peterson	December 1, 1955
John Holbrook	January 1, 1956
Hudson & Ingram	February 1, 1956
Koehler & Isaak	March 1, 1956
Tracy & Hildreth	April 1, 1956
Dirsa & Lampron	May 1, 1956
Lyford & Magenau	June 1, 1956
Prescott & Erickson	July 1, 1956
Alexander J. Majeski	August 1, 1956



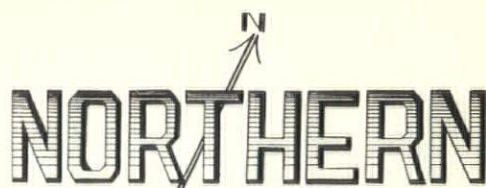
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 - c Public Relations Stephen P. Tracey
 - d Chapter Committee on Public Relations Alexander J. Majeski
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- a Architectural Competitions Edward B. Miles
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 - g N. H. Architect Alexander J. Majeski
 - h Travelling Exhibit Nicholas Isaak
-

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 - *c Chapter Affairs Malcolm D. Hildreth
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D—EDUCATION & RESEARCH John A. Carter

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 - *g AIA & Producers Council Joseph F. Lampron
 - h AIA & AGC Carl E. Peterson
 - *i AIA & Home Building Industry Henry W. Erickson
-

*-Regional Members.

Four Day Meeting at Octagon Washington, D. C.

The National Committee on Chapter Affairs, in conjunction with the Committee on Education will hold a four day meeting at the Octagon in Washington, D. C., November 20-23.

A representative group of students, teachers and administrators from Architectural Schools will attend a portion of the meeting to activate student Chapters and otherwise encourage improved relations between students and practitioners.

New England will be represented at the meeting by Eugene F. Magenau, Chairman of the Regional Chapter Affairs Committee.

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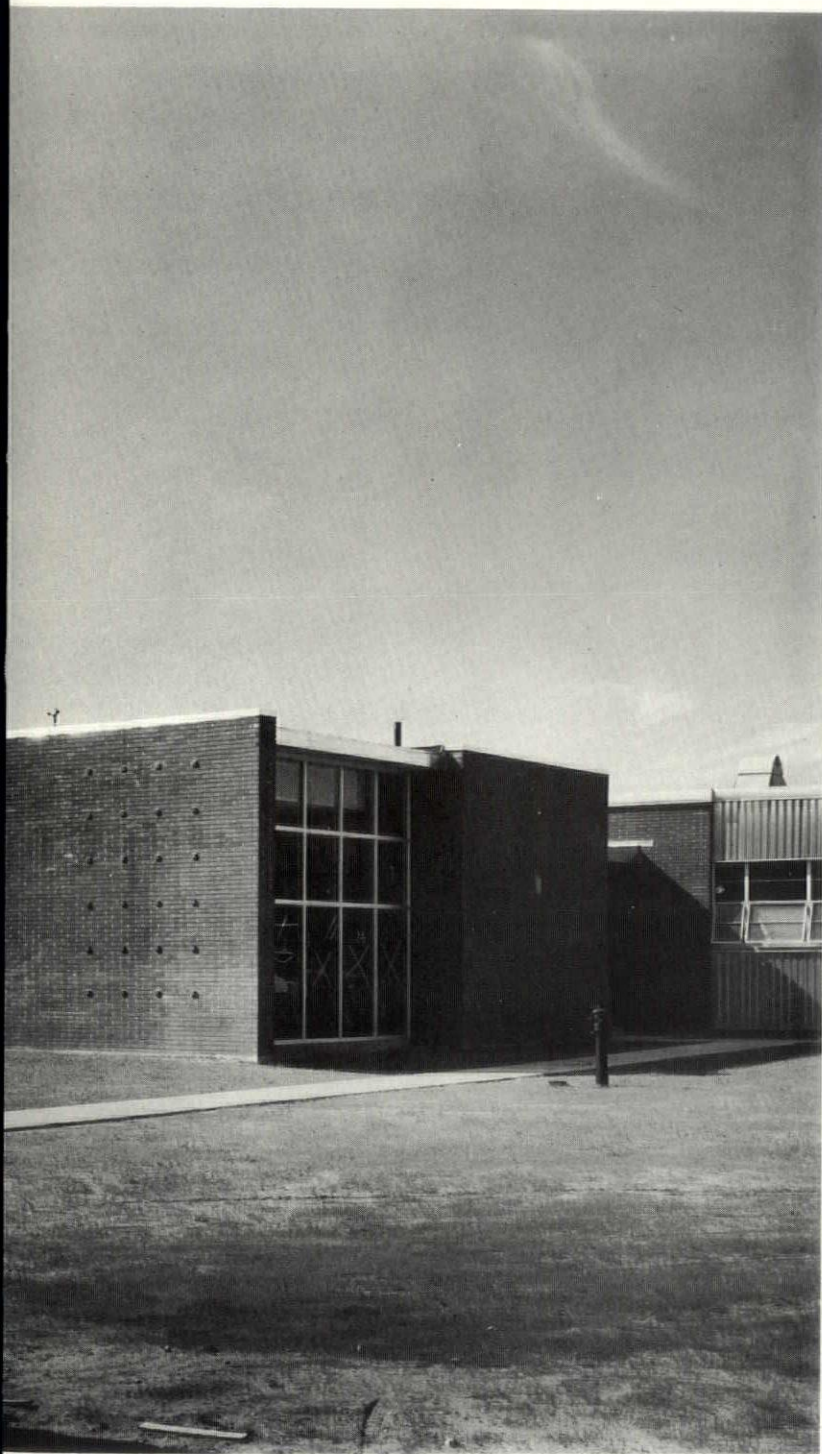
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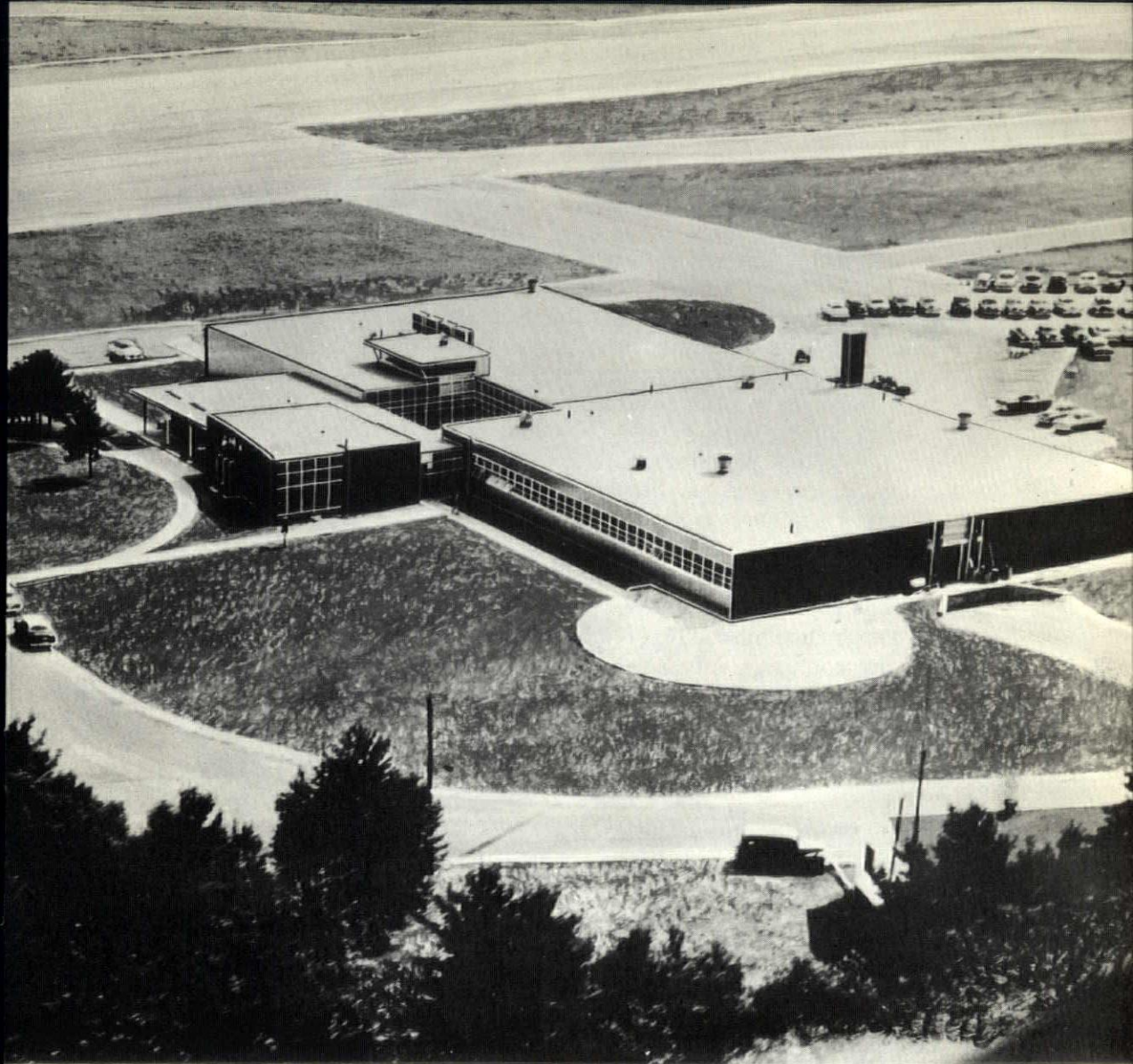
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Aerial View of Marion Electrical Instrument Plant.

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The site location was determined by the owners, whose major production is geared to the civil and military aviation industry and whose sales and delivery is by their own airplane.

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sulated fire-resistant roof decking, insulated aluminum panel wall construction, brick walls, concrete floor slabs on grade, asphalt and ceramic tile and concentrated use of glass answered the purpose. The use of side wall aluminum panels and long span steel joists provides the present need for operational flexibility; future expansion will be less costly in the removal and reuse of the side wall panels.

The plan expresses the straight-line operation from raw material to fabrication, assembly and to shipping with the engineering-research away from but related to production. Administration, re-

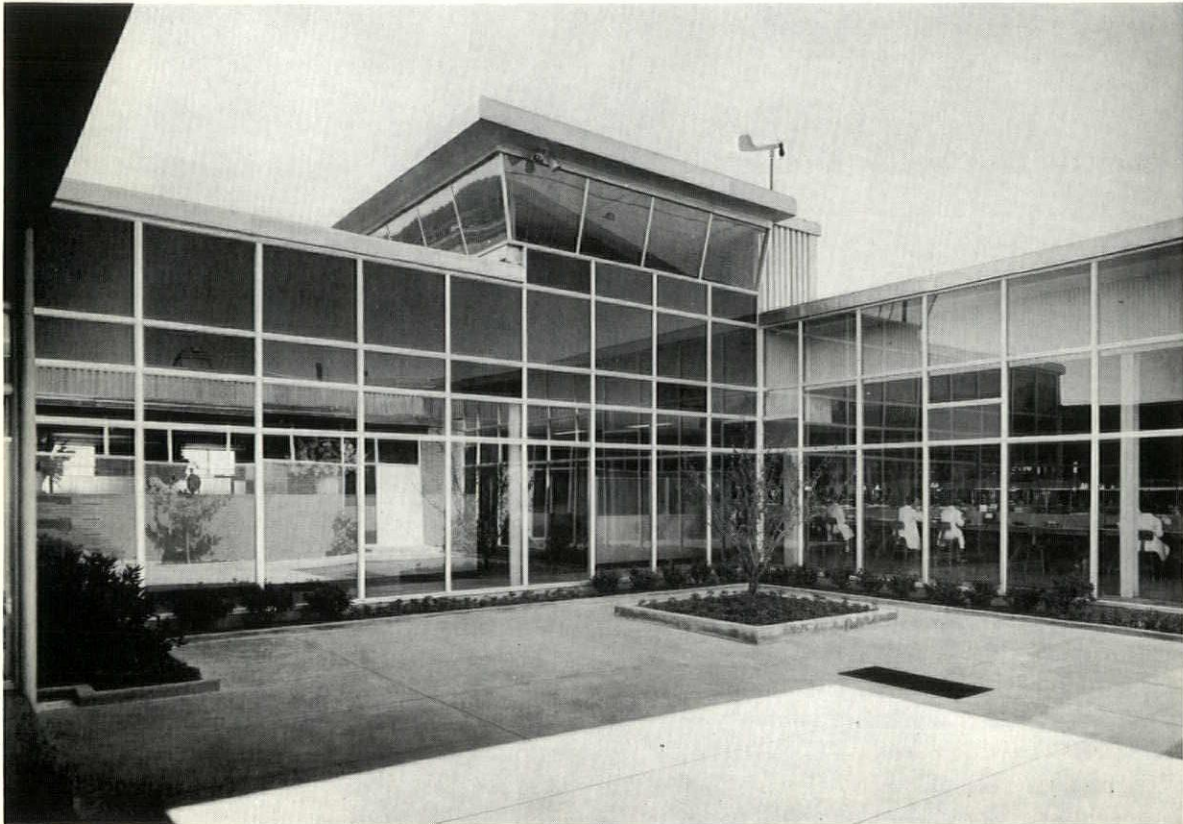
(Continued on Page 16)

(Continued from Page 15)

ception and cafeteria areas are located to be accessible but not to interrupt the production-flow. The operational grouping around the open court affords the people of assembly and administration psychological relief from the strain of precision work and to those of the cafeteria, relaxation during dining periods. The window-walls of the court combines the use of varicolored carrara, with satin-aluminum frames; the scored green-colored concrete controls the planting while the copper wall fountain completes a naturalness surrounded by automation.

The Pent-house office for the president of the company, Mr. Roscoe Ammon, provides privacy and observation of a revitalized airport.

(Continued on Page 20)





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(Continued from Page 16)

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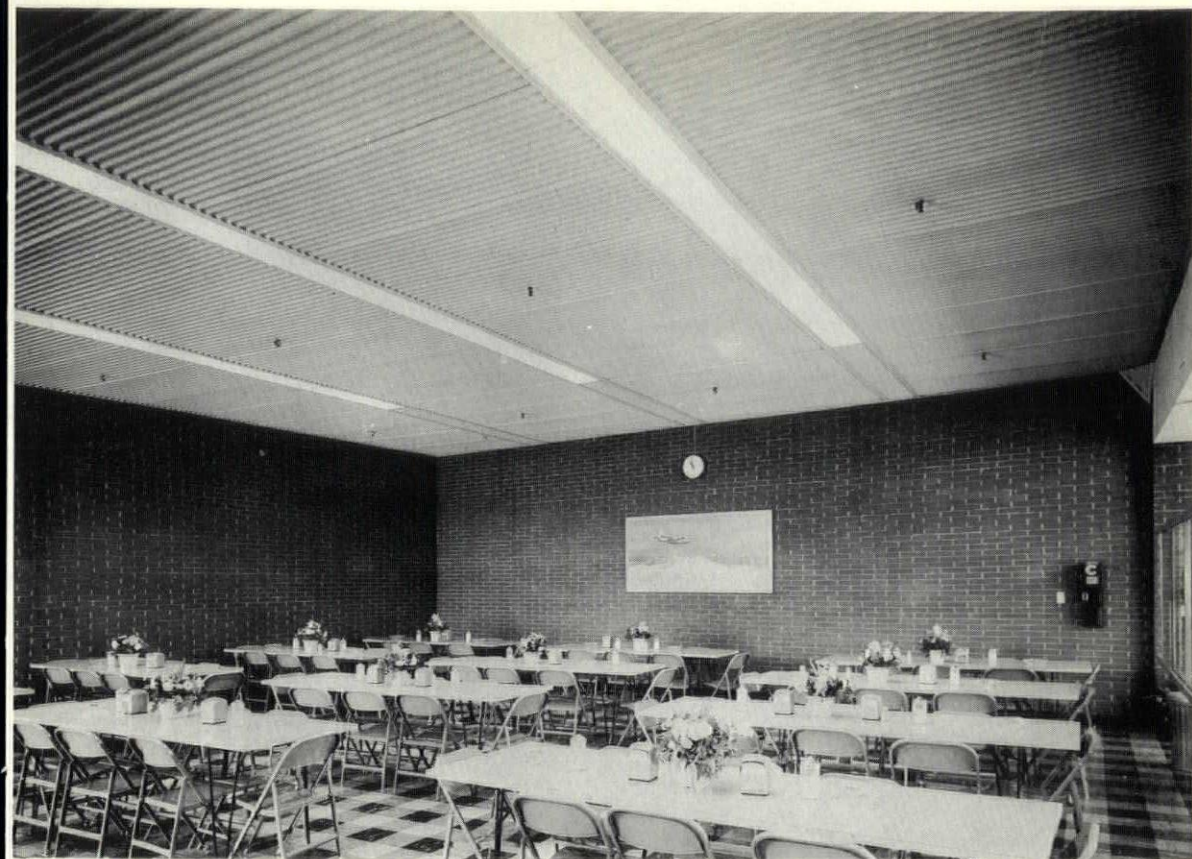
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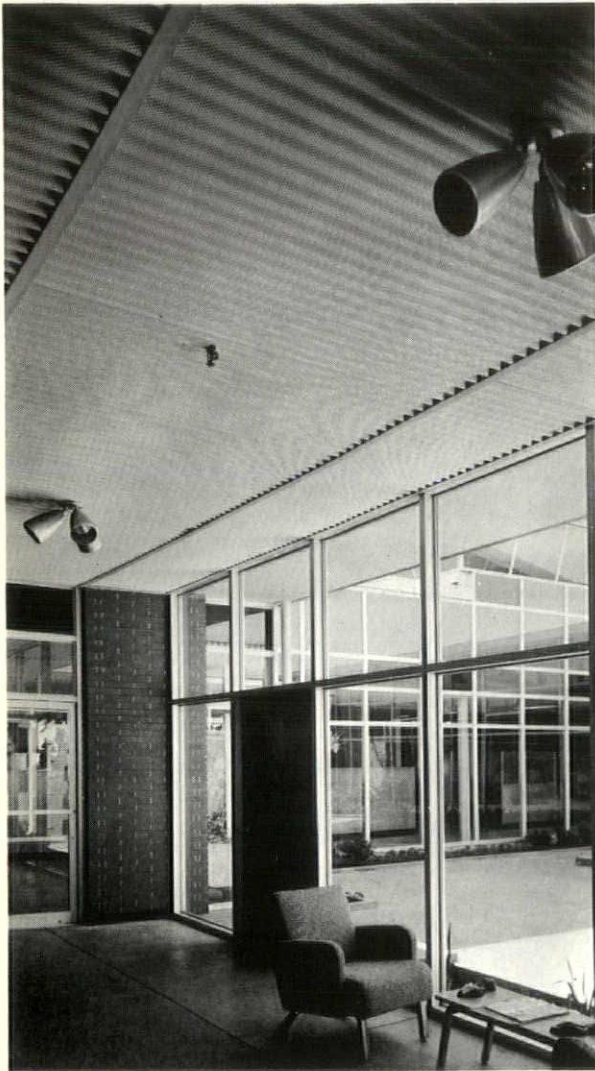
NEW ENGLAND AWARDS REACH ALL-TIME HIGH

BOSTON—Dodge Reports totals for New England for the first nine months of 1955 show the region at an all-time high in dollar volume of contracts awarded for future construction. The region was also 166 per cent ahead of 1954 and had awards totalling \$1,210,144,000 it was stated by James A. Harding, district manager of F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists.

Individual categories at nine months, compared with the like 1954 period were: nonresidential, up 14 per cent at \$404,069,000; residential, up 3 per cent at \$456,612,000; heavy engineering, up 41 per cent at \$349,463,000.

September was also a record high for that month with awards that were 14 per cent above September 1954. The total was \$138,891,000.

Individual September awards compared with September 1954 were: non-residential, down 15 per cent at \$47,154,000; residential, down 3 per cent at \$46,632,000; heavy engineering, up 151 per cent at \$45,105,000.



Lounge Looking Towards General Office and Court Yard.

SCHOOL BUILDING EXHIBIT IN ATLANTIC CITY

Again this year the American Association of School Administrators and the American Institute of Architects are jointly sponsoring a school building architectural exhibit at the AASA convention to be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey February 18-23, 1956.

Architects who are interested in having any of their work included in this exhibition can secure entry blanks and rules governing submission of material by writing to Dr. Shirley Cooper, 1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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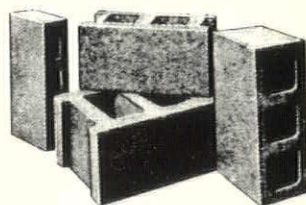
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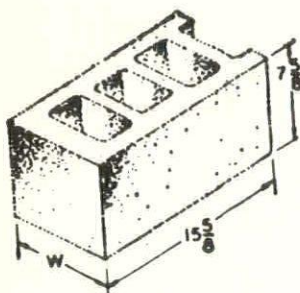
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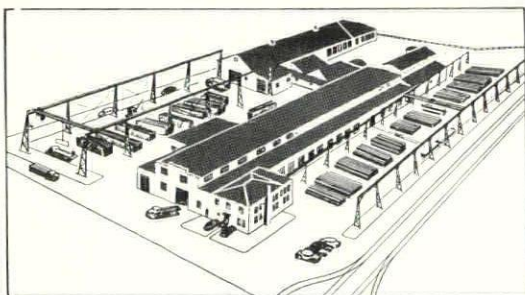
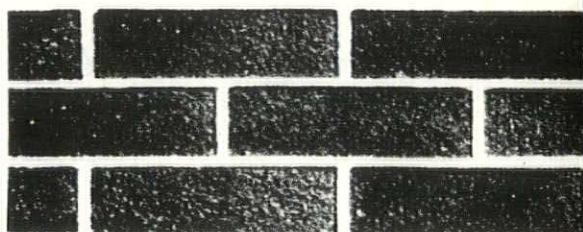


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